Application No. 10/568,364
Filed: February 14, 2006
TC Art Unit: 1644
Confirmation No.: 1148

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An *ex vivo* method of measuring the level of immune activation ~~and~~ or immunosuppression in an individual having, or suspected of having, a T helper 1 (Th1)-associated condition, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an individual having, or suspected of having, a Th1-associated condition;

collecting a whole blood sample including white blood cells (WBC) from said individual;

adding a pro-inflammatory stimulant to an unfractionated said sample;

incubating said unfractionated sample with said stimulant; and

assaying in said stimulated sample the extent of release of a pro-inflammatory substance from said WBCs, wherein the extent of release of said pro-inflammatory substance in response to said pro-inflammatory stimulant is indicative of the level of immunologic activity ~~and/~~or immunosuppression in said individual.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said Th1-associated condition is selected from the group consisting of Crohn's Disease, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), multiple sclerosis and solid organ transplant rejection.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said pro-inflammatory stimulant is interferon-gamma, tumor necrosis factor-alpha, an interleukin or a combination thereof.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said pro-inflammatory substance is a chemotactic cytokine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said chemotactic cytokine is selected from the group consisting of CXCL9(MIG), CXCL10(IP-10,IP10) and CXCL11 (ITAC,I-TAC).

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said pro-inflammatory stimulant is a bacterial-associated lipid or polysaccharide.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said pro-inflammatory stimulant is selected from the group consisting of lipopolysaccharide, lipotechoic acid, peptidoglycan and subunits or components thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the extent of release of said pro-inflammatory substance is assayed by a method selected from the group consisting of antibody derived serologic measurement of said pro-inflammatory substance; PCR methodology measurement of messenger RNA levels for said pro-inflammatory substance; protein chip assay quantification of said pro-inflammatory substance; measurement of intracellular production of said pro-inflammatory substance by cells using flow cytometric analysis; binding and release measurement of said pro-inflammatory substance; and measurement of ~~a metabolic product~~any metabolized portion of said pro-inflammatory substance.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the extent of release of said pro-inflammatory substance is assayed by antibody derived serologic measurement.

10-14. (Cancelled)

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